

**LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND POLICE AND  
CRIME PANEL - 26 JUNE 2013**

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY SOLICITOR**

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Panel of the consequences of the elections to Leicestershire County Council on the political balance of the Panel and to recommend that no change be made to the current membership arrangements.

**Background**

2. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires that local authorities comprising the Panel should “secure that (as far as is reasonably practicable) the balanced appointment objective is met”.
3. That objective is defined as being that “local authority members of a Police and Crime Panel (when taken together) –
  - (a) represent all relevant parts of the police area;
  - (b) represent the political make up of ..... the relevant local authorities (when taken together);
  - (c) have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Police and Crime Panel to discharge its functions effectively”.
4. At the meeting of the Panel on 23 November 2012, the Panel concluded that in addition to the statutory membership, of one member from each constituent authority and two independent members, three co-opted members should join the Panel from Leicester City Council with a view to establishing a Panel that better reflected the populations served by the Leicestershire and Rutland Police Force and the political balance rules. As a consequence, the current membership comprises:-
  - (a) 7 Conservative members drawn from ruling groups in the constituent authorities
  - (b) 4 Labour members from Leicester City Council, 1 by operation of law and 3 co-opted
  - (c) 2 Liberal Democrat members drawn from the ruling groups in constituent authorities.
5. Where a Panel co-opts local authority members, the Panel must notify the Home Office of their names and of the local authority of which they are a member. The Panel must also explain the reasons for deciding that co-opting

these individuals will help it meet, or better meet, the balanced appointment objective.

### **Leicestershire County Council Elections: May 2013**

6. Following the County Council elections in 2009, the 55 seats at the County Council were taken by 36 Conservatives, 14 Liberal Democrats, 4 Labour and 1 BNP member. Prior to the County Council elections in May 2013, the composition of the County Council was : 33 Conservatives, 14 Liberal Democrats, 4 Labour, 2 UKIP and 2 Independents (not in a group). The outcome of the May 2013 election is: 30 Conservatives, 13 Liberal Democrats, 10 Labour, 2 UKIP.

### **The Political Balance Across the Authorities**

7. The authorities across the police area forming the Panel have been contacted in order to establish up to date details of their membership. These are set out in full on the attached table. It is to be noted that a by election is due to take place in Rutland. Subject to the outcome of that election, the overall position is not greatly changed. Despite a reduction in the overall number of Conservative and Liberal Democrat members, the number of Labour members has not increased by a corresponding amount and the number of members in smaller or independent groups has nearly doubled from 12 overall to 23 out of the total number of seats (388) in the area (around 6% of the total). The analysis in the attached table contains more information about the membership of independent groups across the authorities.
8. Given the overall position as set out in the attached note with regard to political balance and the population distribution across the area, it is proposed that there should be no change in the composition of the Police and Crime Panel at the present time.

### **Recommendation**

9. The Panel is asked to agree that the composition of the Panel remain as agreed at the Panel meeting on 23 November 2012.

### **Officer to Contact**

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### **Appendix**

Appendix A – Political Balance charts